MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH THE

DAMASCUS CHURCH, COPIAH COUNTY, MISS.,

September 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th, 1851.

NATCHEZ, MISS.

Printed at the Natchez Courier Book and Job Office.

1851.

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UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

MINUTES.

DAMASCUS CHURCH, COPIAH COUNTY,
SEPTEMBER 27th, 1851.

The Delegates from the Churches forming the Union Association assembled this day to hold their Thirty-first Annual Meeting.

1. At 11 o'clock, the Rev. C. S. McCloud preached the Introductory Sermon from Nehemiah, 2d chap., 18th verse: "And they said, let us rise up and build."

2. The Moderator, Rev. Wm. Mullins, called the Association to order. Rev. L. B. Holloway offered prayer.

3. The Letters from the Churches were called for, and read by Revs. L. B. Holloway and H. D. F. Roberts, who were appointed for the purpose—the names of delegates enrolled, and the following statistical table made therefrom:

Statistical Table of the Churches.

Churches.	Delegates.	Counties.....	Post Offices.....	Sunday Meetings.	Baptized.....	Rec'd by Letter.	Restored	Dism'd by Letter.	Excluded...	Dead.	White Male Mem.	White Fem. Mem.	Blacks.....	TOTAL.....	No. Copies.....	Funds sent up....
Antioch,.....	B. Buffkin, T. J. Mullins,	Copiah	Hargrave		4		1	2	1	1	21		40	61	25	$4 [illegible]
Bethlehem, ...	J. Prichard, C. Corban,	Franklin	Hamburg		1		1	1	7	1	13	38	34	85	20	3 [illegible]
Brushy Fork,	T. J. Stamps,* B. Higdon,	Claiborne	Lindon			5		2	1	1	16	18	2	36	20	4 [illegible]
Bethany, ...	S. Foster, G. W. Collier,	Claiborne	Lindon		8	2	1	1			7	9		16	20	3 [illegible]
Bethesda,.....	[No letter.]	Jefferson	U. Church					4			4	11	140	19 155	10 10	8 [illegible]
Clear Creek,	T. H. McCouen, Thos. Galtney,*	Adams	Washing'n													
County Line,	S. Terry, M. T. Conn,	Hinds	Line Store	4th.	12	1		13		1	41	63	22	126	50	3 [illegible]
Damascus, ...	Wm. Welsh, Frederic Purser,	Copiah	Gallatin	2nd.	2	9		4		3	22	35	7	64	50	9 [illegible]
Ebenezer,.....	Joel Selman, S. L. Chambliss,	Jefferson	Fayette	2nd.	7					1	11	12	39	62	30	6 [illegible]
Fellowship,...	C. S. McCloud, S. H. Coleman,* E. Wallace,	Claiborne	PortGibson	1, 3,	10	2		9	1	3	48	65	86	199	30	13 [illegible]
Grand Gulf,	Wm. Coleman, [No letter.]	Claiborne	Grand Gulf											105	10	
Hepzibah, ...	Hugh Anderson,* W. M. Ellis,	Copiah	Pine Bluff			3		3	3	3	41	67	30	138	60	9 [illegible]
1st Bap. Ch. of Natchez,...	H. G. Brewerton, Robt. Rawes,* I. Fallis,	Adams	Natchez	E.S.	20	3			16	13	11	40	388	418	50	10 [illegible]
New Salem,...	Ira Carpenter, Jesse Scrivner, E. Hudnall,	Copiah	Gallatin						1			2	6	5	12	...
N. Providence	Wm. Mullins, V. Davis,	Copiah	Hargrave	3rd.	46				3			40	53	6	99	75	10 [illegible]
New Zion,....	J. Lewis, N. Morris,	Copiah	Pine Bluff							1	2	10	11		21	15	3 [illegible]
Pleas. Grove,	H. J. Price, Geo. Douglass,	Copiah	Gallatin			3	2				2	5	6		11	15	15 [illegible]
White Oak,...	Jno. Green,* Theo. Green,*	Hinds	Utica	3rd.		2	4		2		1	16	26	33	75	30	4 [illegible]
						115	31	3	45	32	32	308	439	832	1702	

☞ Those names in SMALL CAPS are Pastors and Ordained Ministers. Those marked with a * were absent.

4. On motion, the Association proceeded to the election of Officers for the ensuing year—Revs. Holloway and Conn, tellers—who reported that Rev. Wm. Mullins was elected Moderator, and Ira Carpenter, Clerk and Treasurer.

5. On motion, Ministers present were invited to seats and a participation in our deliberations.

6. The Rules of Decorum were read by the Clerk.

7. Petitionary letters were called for: A letter was presented from the Pleasant Grove Church, asking admission into our body.

On motion, the Pleasant Grove Church was received into our Union, and the right hand of fellowship extended to her delegates by the Moderator.

8. Letters of corresponding bodies were called for. On motion, the Rev. H. Simmons was received as Messenger from the Pearl River Association. A letter from the Mississippi River Association was read by her Messenger, Rev. W. B. Wall. Also, a letter was read by Rev. H. D. F. Roberts, from the Mississippi Association, and the right hand of fellowship extended to the Messengers, and they invited to seats with us. Also, a package of Minutes was received from each of the above bodies.

9. On motion, the correspondence from the Central Association, upon statement, was received, and Revs. L. B. Holloway and S. I. Cauldwell were invited to seats as Messengers, and the hand of fellowship given by the Moderator.

10. On motion, the motion of Bro. Conn as to the propriety of corresponding with the Baptist State Convention, was laid upon the table till Monday.

11. On motion, it was decided as the sense of this Association, that Churches appoint delegates to represent them from their own membership.

12. On motion, a Committee on Preaching was appointed by the chair, consisting of brethren Welch, Foster, Buffkin, and Selman.

13. On motion, a Committee of Arrangements was appointed, consisting of Rev. M. T. Conn, and brethren Selman and S. L. Chambliss, with Moderator and Clerk.

14. The Committee on Preaching reported, that Revs. M. T. Conn preach the Missionary Sermon, on Sabbath, at 11 o'clock; that H. D. F. Roberts follow, and W B. Wall conclude.

Respectfully submitted: Wm. Welch, Chairman.

Which, on motion, was received and adopted.

On motion, adjourned to Monday morning at 9 o'clock.

Prayer by Bro. Cauldwell.

Sabbath Exercises.

The people assembled at the stand in the grove, at 11 o'clock. Agreeably to appointment made at the last session, the Rev. M. T. Conn delivered the Annual Missionary Sermon from 96th Psalm, 10th verse: "Say among the heathen *that* the Lord reigneth": at the close of which a collection was taken up, amounting to $20 88 cts. The Rev. H. D. F. Roberts, from the Mississippi Association, followed and preached from

Gallatians, 5th chapter, 22d verse; "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith."

After a recess of forty minutes, the Rev. W. B. Wall, of the Mississippi River Association, preached the concluding Sermon from John, 3d chap., 16th verse: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

The day was cool and pleasant—the congregation respectable as to numbers, yet not as large as usual on similar occasions, owing we are informed to much sickness prevailing in this vicinity. We trust the Lord will bless the labors of his ministers, that christians may be edified, sinners awakened and converted to God.

MONDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment—the Moderator in the chair. A song of praise was sung, and the "Throne of Grace" addressed by Bro. W. B. Wall.

15. The Committee of Arrangements reported as follows:

1. Call the Roll;	4. Appointments;
2. Call for Reports;	5. Queries;
3. Correspondence;	6. Motions and Resolutions.

Respectfully submitted: M. T. Conn, Chairman.

Report adopted.

16. On motion, the roll was called, and those delegates not present marked absent.

17. On motion, the letter from the New Zion Church was called for and read.

18. On motion, the letter from the Pearl River Association having come to hand was read and received.

19. The Committee on Preaching again reported that Revs. H. D. F. Roberts, L. B. Holloway, and H. Simmons, preach to-day at the stand in the order of their names—which, on motion, was received.

20. On motion, a *Protest*, signed by sundry members of the Hepzibah Church, was read.

21. On motion, in accordance with the request of the Hepzibah Church, the difficulty existing in said church was taken up.

22. On motion, a committee of five was appointed to investigate the whole matter of difficulty existing in the Hepzibah Church and make report. The Moderator appointed on said committee, brethren Joel Selman, S. L. Chambliss, F. Purser, V. Davis, S. Terry; and at the suggestion of a brother, Dr. W. M. Philips expressed his willingness to render the committee all the aid in his power.

23. On motion, the chair appointed the following Committee on Finance, viz: I. Fallis, B. Higdon and H. J. Price.

24. The Treasurer made the following report, which, on motion, was received:

IRA CARPENTER,.....in acct. with UNION ASSOCIATION.

DR.

To amount in Treasury, September, 1850,.....		$694 44

CONTRA.

1850—Oct. 17:	By cash paid for 800 copies Minutes,...	$35 00	
" " 19:	Cash remitted to Rev. R. Holman, for D. Missions,.....	34 50	
" " 19:	Cash remitted to C. S. Tucker, for Indian Missions,.....	60 75	
" " 19:	Cash remitted to Rev. Jas. B. Taylor, for Foreign Missions.....	40 50	
" Nov. 7:	Cash paid Convention for L. P. Conner for Education,.....	2 50	
1851—Aug. 22:	Cash paid for Postage,.....	39	
" Sept. 27:	Cash paid Rev. Wm. Mullins, for services as Missionary,.....	70 00	$243 64
			$450 80
	Interest allowed,.....		30 00
	Amount in Treasury,.....		$480 80

Sept. 27, 1851. [E. E.] IRA CARPENTER, Treasurer.

REPORT OF THE BOARD.

25. The Missionary Board of the Union Association beg leave to report: That they held a meeting at the New Providence Church in December, and appointed brother S. B. Mullen to labor within our bounds, but he did not accept the appointment. At another meeting held with the Ebenezer Church in February, they appointed Revs. William Mullins and W. F. Green—the former, although he supplied four churches, accepted the appointment, and has done what he could in preaching the Gospel to the destitute, as the following extracts from his report will show:

"After my appointment, I very soon had four places selected, two little destitute churches, (Antioch and Bethany,) and two destitute neighborhoods, where I preached in school-houses, one near the Brandywine Springs and the other four miles west of Gallatin. At these places I have kept up pretty regular appointments, once a month, since about the 1st of March, usually on week days, and I think I may say my labors have not been in vain in the Lord. At Antioch, I have baptized 4 and restored 1. At Bethany, I have baptized 7, restored 1, and received 2 by letter. At the Springs, none have been received, yet a lively interest has been manifested in the preaching of the Gospel. At the school-house, four miles from Gallatin, the work of the Lord appears to have prospered. After the third sermon preached at this place, the door of the church was opened for the reception of members, when four willing persons came forward and related their christian experiences and were received for baptism; and in the evening we assembled at the water side and immersed them in the presence of many weeping friends. This day's work laid the foundation for a new Church, which has since been constituted. I have at this place baptized seven, and received two by letter. A lively interest is manifested, indeed it is so in every place I have preached at. I have been over once to the Bethesda Church, and received and baptized one. My dear brethren, in view of what has

been done by the small amount of labor that has been performed, does it not speak volumes in favor of the missionary cause. Could the Board procure the services of some efficient minister to labor all his time, I think much good might be accomplished."

Bro. Mullins, as appears from his report, has preached 37 sermons, had many religious conversations, baptized 19 persons, received 4 by letter, restored 2, aided in the constitution of one church, and travelled in the service of the Board 646 miles. Your Board, brethren, greatly rejoice that such cheering results have been produced from the means used, and would bless the Lord for his mercy and goodness which endureth forever. In conclusion, we desire to express our gratitude to God, that amidst surrounding sickness and death our unprofitable lives have been preserved. We resign the trust committed to us into your hands, praying the blessing and protection of our Heavenly Father may rest upon and ever more be over you and the churches you represent.

Respectfully submitted in behalf of the Board:

Sept. 29, 1851. IRA CARPENTER, Secretary.

Which report, on motion, was received and adopted.

26. On motion, it was agreed that we have a letter written to corresponding bodies and appended to the minutes, and that the Clerk be requested to prepare the same.

27. On motion, appointed Messengers as follows: Revs. C. S. McCloud and M. T. Conn, to the Central Association; Rev. Wm. Mullins and Bro. N. Morris, to the Pearl River; Revs. Conn and W. F. Green, to the Mississippi River; Brethren A. R. Lum and W. H. Bailey, to the Mississippi Association.

28. On motion, the subject relative to corresponding with the Baptist State Convention, was now called from the table.

29. On motion, the messengers from the Convention, Revs. L. B. Holloway, S. I. Cauldwell, W. B. Wall and C. S. McCloud, were received and invited to seats.

30. On motion, Revs. Conn, McCloud, Tillman and Bro. E. Wallace were appointed messengers to the Convention.

31. On motion, a Committee of Nomination was appointed, consisting of the following brethren: B. Buffkin, Jno. Lewis, Wm. Coleman, T. H. McCowen and S. Foster.

[The Association here took a recess for 30 minutes; after which they came to order and sang an hymn.]

32. A letter from the Wall street Baptist Church was read, and after some discussion, was on motion, received.

33. On motion, it was

Resolved, That a committee of nine be appointed, consisting of three each from the Central, Mississippi and Union Associations, to investigate the difficulties from commencement in the First Baptist Church of Natchez, upon the merits of the case, and report to this Association the opinion they may form of the whole matter at the next meeting, as to who are in error, and what they would advise in the premises.

The following brethren were appointed on said committee from this Association, viz., William Whitney, Stephen Tillman and Alexander Slay; and the other members of this committee we respectfully request the two Associations first named to appoint: And this Association recommend this committee to meet the first Tuesday in December next, and

in case of failure of a quorum the committee are requested to appoint a subsequent time of meeting.

34. On motion, the following resolutions were offered and unanimously adopted, after several interesting addresses had been made upon the subject of an educated ministry:

Resolved, That preaching the Gospel is the ordained instrumentality by which the world is to be converted.

Resolved, That we recommend all our churches in our bounds to seek out promising gifts in their midst, and extend them such encouragement as they may need.

Resolved, That the increasing intelligence of our churches and of the age, indicate the propriety of our making provision for a stronger ministry to succeed us.

Resolved, That as there are now several young licensed and ordained ministers, who intend to devote their lives to the sacred ministry, but think they ought to prosecute their studies a little farther before entering upon the responsibilities of that office, and have not the means, we do agree as an Association to pay annually the expenses of one such brother, he being duly accredited.

Resolved, That we request all our churches to send up funds to accomplish this object.

35. The committee appointed by request of the Hepzibah Church, reported as follows:

To the Moderator and Brethren of Union Association, assembled with the Church at Damascus, in Copiah county, Miss:

The committee appointed by your body to examine all matters appertaining to the difficulties in the Hepzibah Church, beg leave to represent: That after a patient and persevering examination of some five hours, having examined all papers presented by the parties present, patiently listened to all explanations and remarks, have concluded to express an opinion that the brethren who have been prominent in the matters, have permitted their passions to lead them astray, in giving expression and action to temper, instead of conducting themselves in that loving manner which should ever adorn the christian.

We would therefore recommend, that this Association recommend those brethren to accept a committee to be appointed by this Association, (the chairman we respectfully recommend to be our very worthy brother, Rev. Mr. Roberts,) and that said committee do consist of five brethren, and that they labor with our brethren, endeavoring to effect a reconciliation—believing as we do, that a christian spirit and prayerfulness will lead to a full settlement.

We would recommend to the Association, that the Association express their opinion that the brethren who were called in from the five neighboring churches to settle the above matters, did decide correctly that the Moderator was correct in his decision.

We would also recommend, that the Asssociation gives it as the opinion of the Association, that the 8th Article does read to this wise: That all questions when voted upon, shall be decided by a majority, except upon receiving members, or as evoked upon questions of Fellowship.

And thinking thus, we regard the majority had a clear right to vote upon Mr. Byal's case as they deemed fit, and that he is accordingly restored or excused. JOEL SELMAN, Chairman.

M. W. PHILIPS, Clerk.

September 29, 1851.

Which, on motion, was received and adopted unanimously. In accordance with the report, the chair appointed on said committee, Revs. H. D. F. Roberts chairman, C. S. McCloud, W. B. Wall, S. I. Cauldwell and Saml. Thigpen.

The Association appointed the time of meeting, Monday after the 5th Sabbath in November next.

36. On motion, the following preamble and resolution were offered and adopted:

WHEREAS, the citizens of Clinton and vicinity have tendered to the Baptist denomination the property of Mississippi College, free of all cost, only requiring them to keep up an institution of learning in the town of Clinton; and whereas, said property has been received, and new trustees elected, it is now the property of the Baptist denomination; and whereas, the new trustees have elected a competent Baptist teacher to take charge of the Primary Department of said College:

Resolved, That we are highly delighted with said transfer of College property, and do most cheerfully recommend Mississippi College to the patronage and support of the denomination in our bounds.

37. The Committee on Nominations reported the names of the following Brethren, to serve as a Missionary Board the ensuing year, viz: V. Davis, Hargrave; A. R. Lum, do.; S. D. Dodd, Gallatin; F. Purser, do.; Joel Selman, Fayette; B. Higdon, Lindon; S. Terry, Line Store; H. Chevers, Pine Bluff; Wm. Coleman, Rodney; G. W. Collier, Lindon; with Moderator and Secretary. The above Committee also reported that Rev. Wm. Mullins be requested to preach the next introductory sermon, and Rev. M. T. Conn, alternate; to preach the next Missionary sermon, Rev. C. S. McCloud, and Rev. Wm. Whieldon, alternate.

Which reports were received and approved. Brethren Selman, Chambliss and Ellis were, on motion, excused from further attendance.

On motion, adjourned to half-past 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Prayer by Bro. McCloud.

TUESDAY MORNING, 9½ O'CLOCK.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. A song of praise was sung, and prayer offered by Bro. Cauldwell.

Several interesting addresses were made upon the Missionary enterprise.

38. On motion, the suggestion, contained in the New Zion Church letter, was referred to the Missionary Board.

39. The Finance Committee reported as follows:

The Finance Committee beg leave to report, that they have examined the Treasurer's Report, and find it correct, showing a balance in the Treasury of .....$ 480 80

Collection on Sabbath,	20 88
Amount sent up by four Churches, for specific purposes,	265 25
Amount sent up by the Churches, for Association purposes,	95 10
Total amount in Treasury,	$ 862 03

Respectfully submitted.

Sept. 30, 1581.

I. FALLIS, Chairman.

Which report was, on motion, received and adopted, and the Clerk instructed to transmit the funds, sent up by the Churches for specific objects, to the places designated by the contributors.

40. On motion, it was decided that we hold our next Annual Meeting with the Bethlehem Church, Franklin county.

41. On motion, it was—

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association are tendered to the Brethren and friends in this vicinity, for the kind and hospitable manner in which we have been entertained during the session.

42. On motion, it was—

Resolved, That the Clerk be requested to superintend the printing and distribution of the Minutes, and pay the expense thereof out of the Treasury Funds.

43. *Resolved*, That the Articles of Faith, Rules of Decorum, and Powers of Association, be published with these Minutes.

The Minutes were read and corrected; when, on motion, the Association adjourned to meet with the Bethlehem Church, on Saturday before the fourth Sabbath in September, 1852.

After an interesting address by the Moderator, the singing an hymn, and prayer by Bro. Conn, the Delegates gave each other the parting hand.

WILLIAM MULLINS, Moderator.

IRA CARPENTER, Clerk.

Names of Ministers in Union Association.

M. T. CONN,	WM. WHIELDON,	*S. Tillman,*
W. F. GREEN,	C. S. MCCLOUD,	*D. S. Snodgrass,*
V. W. BROCK,	JESSE SCRIVNER,	*N. Morris,*
WM. MULLINS,		*A. R. Lum.*

Funds sent up to the Association for special purposes.

FROM BETHLEHEM CHURCH. *For Domestic Missions*—L. Mundy, $40; A. Herring, $2; Mrs. S. Kinneson, 45 cts.; Mrs. Sarah Guice, 50 cts.; A. Buckels, sen'r, $3; Mrs. N. Buckels, 50 cts. *Foreign Missions*—A. Herring, $2. *Indian Missions*—L. Mundy, $60; A. Herring, $2; Mrs. Sarah Guice, 50 cts.; N. D. Stringer, $1; B. Calvit, 50 cts.; Mr. Miles, 50 cts.; J. E O. Kelly, 50 cts.; A. Buckels, sen'r, $3; Mrs. N. Buckels, 50 cts. *Ministerial Education*—A. Herring, $2; A. Stringer, $3. *African Mission*—A. Herring, $2; A. Buckels, Sen'r, 50 cts.

FROM FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, NATCHEZ. *For Foreign Missions*—Mrs. S. Richards, $5. *Indian Missions*—Ira Carpenter, $30; Miss C. Fallis, $1; Mrs. S. Richards, $10; Mrs. J. Campbell, $7 35. *Ministerial Education*—Ira Carpenter, $25; Isaac Fallis, $5; H G Brewerton, $1; Robert Rawes, $1; Mrs. S Richards, $10; Mrs. H. Barfield, $5; Mrs. J. Campbell, $2 50. *African Mission*—Colored Branch of Church, $10.

FROM COUNTY LINE CHURCH. *For Indian Missions*—$10 10. *Ministerial Education*—$7 05.

FROM WHITE OAK CHURCH. *For Indian Missions*—$11 80.

BOARD MEETING.

The Missionary Board held a meeting in the Damascus Church immediately after the Association adjourned, Sept. 30, 1851,—Bro. Mullins in the Chair. Bro. Collier offered prayer. Members present—S. D. Dodd, Wm. Coleman, V. Davis, A. R. Lum, B. Higdon, S. Terry, F. Purser, G. W. Collier, with Chairman and Secretary.

On motion, it was—

Resolved, That the Secretary be requested to write to the Editor of the "S. W. Baptist," and request him to say, in the columns of his paper, that we need an efficient Minister to labor as a Missionary within our bounds.

On motion, it was—

Resolved, That we request Bro. Mullins to continue to devote as much time as he can spare as a Missionary of this Board.

Rev. H. D. E. Roberts here accepted an invitation to a seat with us.

On motion, the Board adjourned, to meet with the Hepzibah Church on Saturday before the fifth Sabbath in November next. Prayer by Bro. Roberts.

IRA CARPENTER, Secretary.

ASSOCIATIONS.

Union Association meets with the Bethlehem Church, Franklin county, on Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in Sept., 1852.

Pearl River Association meets with the Bethany Church, Lawrence county, on Saturday before the 2d Lord's-day in Sept., 1852.

Mississippi Association meets with
on Saturday before the 1st Sabbath in October, 1852.

Central Association meets with
on Saturday before the 2d Sabbath in October, 1852.

Mississippi River Association meets with
on Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in October, 1852.

The Mississippi Baptist State Convention meets with the Aberdeen Church, on Thursday before the 2d Lord's-day in November, 1851.

ABSTRACTS FROM THE LETTERS.

Antioch.—Says—"In the course of a kind Providence, another Associational year has rolled around, and we are called upon to meet you again by letter and delegates. We are at peace with each other. We rejoice that the Lord has visited us at this place. May the God, whom we adore and worship, preside over your deliberations. We have week-day preaching by our beloved Brother Wm. Mullins." Four persons have been baptized and added to this Church. May this be only as the few drops before the plentiful shower.

Bethlehem.—"We hope that we are thankful in again having the privilege of addressing you by letter. The Word is regularly preached among us to large and attentive congregations, by our worthy Brother Elder Z. Reeves, which we hope is not in vain in the Lord. When we take a view of our Gospel privileges, we are compelled to say, that our disobedience gives evidence against us. We are at peace among ourselves, yet we have been obliged to exclude some for disorder." With this Church, the Association is to meet next year.

Brushy Fork.—Says—"We have nothing of interest to communicate. We have to lament a cold and lukeworm state; yet we have reason to thank the Lord, that, as a Church and individuals, we enjoy peace. We are supplied with preaching once a month by our beloved Brother Wm. Mullins."

Bethany.—"Through the mercy of kind Providence, we are blessed with the happy privilege of meeting you by letter and delegates, to consult upon the welfare of the Churches and the interest of our Redeemer's kingdom here on earth. May the great Head of the Church be with you, and guide you in all wisdom."

Bethesda.—No letter or delegate from this Church.

Clear Creek.—Says—"It has pleased the Lord to spare and preserve our lives during the past year. Our beloved Brother, Rev. D. S. Snodgrass, has been supplying us with preaching during the year until the 1st July, at which time he left us to complete his course in Theology—since that we have had no preaching. Brethren, pray for us, that we may soon have his place supplied with another pastor."

County Line.—"At our regular meeting in August, Brethren Holloway and Conn held a protracted meeting of eight days. The Lord was graciously pleased to revive his work. Mourners came in crowds to the altar—many of whom were happily converted to God. We received by experience fifteen. The Church appears to be awake to her duty, and ready to aid in the great work of advancing the Redeemer's kingdom. We are still blessed with the administration of the Word, by our venerable and beloved Brother, L. B. Holloway. One of our number has been taken from us by death. Let us then be admonished of the shortness of time and uncertainty of life. Let us work for God while it is day, for the night will soon come when no man can work."

Damascus.—Says—"We are all in peace and a good degree of brotherly love prevails. There have been some few additions to our number since our last report. We have to mourn the loss of three of our beloved members, viz: Sister Elizabeth Tillman died of consumption, Dec. 14, 1850; on March 6, 1851, our venerable Brother, Charles Wheeler; on September 7, our esteemed Sister, Sarah Morgan. Our consolation is, the reflection that our loss is their eternal gain. Thus you see that death has been in our midst, and we ask your fervent prayers, that we may all be prepared for the day of death, as we trust our departed Brother and Sisters were. Notwithstanding our sorrows and misfortunes, we feel happy to have you meet with our Church in this your 31st Anniversary. We bid you a cordial welcome." May the Lord bind up the broken in heart, and comfort those that mourn—and sanctify to all the afflictive bereavements of his righteous Providence.

WM. MULLINS, Pastor.

Ebenezer.—After our acknowledgments to Almighty God for his special care over us since we last met. We would hasten to communicate to you, through our letter and delegates, the cheering news of a glorious revival in our Church and vicinity. After experiencing a long period of spiritual dearth, God, in his mercy and good pleasure, has visited us again with tokens of kind remembrance, in pouring out upon us the refreshing showers of his Grace. Seven precious youths followed their Saviour by baptism into the liquid grave; and many we believe were smitten of the Lord. We trust that the sweet monitions of our beloved Brother, C. S. McCloud, and his venerable associate in the Ministry, H. D. F. Roberts, will long be remembered in this part of the moral vineyard, and that God in mercy will continue to give the gracious increase to their labors here, "till the last wanderer in nature's night shall be brought into the glorious light and liberty of the children of God."

P. S.—We have to announce to you, with much sorrow, the afflictive dispensation of our heavenly Father, in removing from us our beloved father in Israel, *Hiram Baldwin*. We feel in our bereavement to drop the sympathetic tear to his departed worth, and to offer in faith the prayer of David: "Help, Lord; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men." We deeply sympathize with this Church in the loss they have sustained by the death of this servant of God. Bro. Baldwin had long been a resident of Jefferson county, and we believe was highly esteemed by all who had the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with him. He left here to visit his relatives at the North early in July, saying if his life was spared, he would return, so as to attend the Association. He was returning, and reached Cincinnati, where he was stricken down by disease, and in a brief period he finished his course on earth. And while we were assembled at Damascus with a small Association, having many things to distract and disturb us, we doubt not the emancipated and glorified spirit of our departed Brother had joined the great Association around our heavenly Father's throne, where there is no strife, but peace and love beams from every angelic face. Oh! how delightful the change!—Peace be to thy memory, Brother. We hope to meet again in heaven.

Fellowship.—Says—"As another Associational year is drawing to a close, it becomes our privilege and pleasing duty to address you by

letter and delegation. We have enjoyed the privilege of having the Bread of Life broken to us statedly by our beloved Pastor, Rev. C. S. McCloud, who preaches for us on the 1st and 3d Sabbaths of each month. 10 baptized."

Grand Gulf.—No letter or delegation.

Hepzibah.—Says—"It will perhaps be recollected by you, that in our last Associational letter, we intimated to your body that we were fearful that whatever might be your action on the auxiliary question, our difficulties were not at an end. Subsequent action by this Church, on that subject, have proved our fears to be correct. Beloved Brethren in the Lord, our heart's desire is that you may all present us at a throne of God's grace, to restore that Christian fellowship among us, which is so desirable among the true followers of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

1st Baptist Church, Natchez.—"Time, with his ever outstretched wing and rapid flight, has brought us to the close of another Associational year. We have great reason to humble ourselves, in view of the little we have done to advance the cause of the Redeemer in our midst, or to promote his glory abroad. We desire to make an expression of gratitude to God. for the numerous temporal and spiritual blessings, of which we have been the daily recipients—and fervently pray that His mercy and goodness may lead us to unfeigned repentance for all our sins, and cause us to love Him more and serve Him better."

New Salem.—"Has nothing very interesting to communicate.—We are few in number, as you will see by the table. We have had no regular preaching the past year, though our highly esteemed and aged Brother, Scrivner, has preached to us once a month, when his health would permit. We contemplate disbanding our Church on the 4th Lord's-day in October." The few members remaining in this Church will, we are informed, unite with the Damascus Church.

New Providence.—"We have many reasons to rejoice and be thankful to our heavenly Father, in view of his continued mercies. He hath spared all of our unprofitable lives through another year, and (praise to His adorable name) we have been permitted to share his spiritual blessings. Our hearts have been filled to overflowing, while we have been permitted to receive our neighbors and friends, and bid them welcome to the joys and sorrows of the Church of Christ. We have had two protracted meetings, conducted by our dear Brethren, Wm. Mullins and W. B. Wall, which have been precious seasons to our souls." *Forty-six* have been added to the Church by baptism, and yet there is room for more.

New Zion.—Says—"We hail with delight the approach of your 31st Anniversary. We have experienced no special revival since your last meeting. We are at peace as a Church, and are blessed with the ministration of the Word monthly by our beloved Brother, M. T. Conn. We have licensed Brother Nathan Morris to preach the Gospel."

Pleasant Grove.—Welcome Sister to our Union—welcome to our joys and sorrows. She says—"We were organized into a regular independent Baptist Church on the 28th June last by a Presbytery consisting of Elders Wm. Mullins, M. T. Conn and Deacon Benj. Buffkin, upon the Articles of Faith of the Union Baptist Association, with seven members." We hope the little vine planted at this place will be

watered by the dews of Heavenly Grace,—grow, and bear much fruit to the honor of the Master. "So shall they be His disciples." Rev. Wm. Mullins supply.

White Oak.—Says—"We acknowledge the goodness of God in the preservation of our unprofitable lives, and desire to feel truly grateful for all the blessings bestowed upon us. We have experienced no special revival, since your last meeting. We are at peace as a Church, and blessed with the ministration of the Word monthly by Elder M. T. Conn, on the third Lord's-day in each month.

REMARKS.

Thus, we have gone through with a review of the letters, making extracts from such portions as we deemed of greatest interest. We are happy to believe that in several Churches, the "Holy Spirit" has descended, convincing men "of sin, righteousness, and a judgment to come," and that in most of the Churches a more lively interest is felt for the salvation of sinners. Brethren in Christ, let us thank God, and take courage. "Let us not be weary in well-doing, for in due time we shall reap, if we faint not" Some of our dear Brethren and Sisters were called to their reward the *last* year, and some of us will doubtless be called *this* year. Then let us *all* be faithful unto death, and God will give us a crown of life.

CLERK.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Union Baptist Association sendeth Christian salutation to all the bodies with whom she corresponds:

Dear Brethren:—The *thirty-first* Anniversary of our Association has just closed. The Lord has been better to us than our fears. We had anticipated some unpleasantness, having some difficulties existing in two Churches, requesting our aid. We hope these matters will be adjusted to our satisfaction, and to the glory of God. We thank you for the interest manifested in our spiritual welfare, in sending us Messengers, Letters, and Minutes—by these we have been encouraged and refreshed; for, "as iron sharpeneth iron, so does the countenance of man his friend." Our next meeting will be held with the *Bethlehem Church*, Franklin county, on Saturday before the *fourth* Lord's-day in September, 1852. We cordially invite you to continue your friendly correspondence with us; for we do assure you, that we esteem it very highly. We have appointed Messengers to visit you at your next session, who we hope will not fail. Brethren, may the fruits of the Spirit be in each of your hearts, and abound. We remain yours in Christian bonds.

WM. MULLINS, Moderator.

Ira Carpenter, Clerk.

ARTICLES OF FAITH
OF THE
UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

Adopted at the First Session, September 18, 1820.

PREAMBLE.

We, the Churches of Jesus Christ, who have been regularly baptized upon a profession of our faith, are convinced of the utility of a combination of Churches, and of maintaining a correspondence for the preservation of union amongst Churches of the same faith and order. We, therefore, agree to form ourselves into an Association, upon the following principles, viz:

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe in one Triune God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; the same in essence—equal in power and glory.

2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by the inspiration of God, and are the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the fall of Adam from his original rectitude; in the imputation of his sin to all his posterity; in the total depravity of human nature, and in man's inability to restore himself to the favor of God.

4. We believe that God hath loved his people with an everlasting love; that he chose them in Christ before the foundation of the world; that he calleth them with a holy and an effectual calling; and, being justified alone through the righteousness of Christ imputed to them, they are kept by the power of God, through faith, unto salvation.

5. We believe there is one Mediator between God and man—the man Christ Jesus: Who, by the satisfaction he made to law and justice, in becoming an offering for sin, hath, by his most precious blood, redeemed the the elect from under the curse of the law, that they might be holy, and without blame before him in love.

6. We believe that good works are the fruits of faith, and follow after justification, and are evidences of a gracious state; and that all believers are bound to obey every command of God, from principle of love.

7. We believe in the Resurrection of the dead, and a General Judgment; that the happiness of the righteous, and the punishment of the wicked, will be everlasting.

GOSPEL ORDER.

1. We believe that a church of Jesus Christ is a congregation of *immersed* believers, who have given themselves to the Lord, and to one another, by the will of God; and have covenanted to keep up a godly discipline agreeable to the rules of the gospel.

2. We believe that Jesus Christ is the head of the church—the only Law-Giver; that the government is with the church.

3. That Baptism and the Lord's Supper are Gospel ordinances, appointed by Jesus Christ, and are to be continued in the Church until his second coming.

4. That the Immersion of the Body in Water, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, is the only Scriptural Baptism, as taught by Christ and his Apostles.

5. That none but regularly baptized church members, who live a holy life, have a right to partake of the Lord's Supper.

6. That it is the privilege and duty of all believers to make a public profession of their faith, by submitting themselves as subjects of baptism, and as members of the visible church.

7. That it is the duty of every regularly organized church to expel from her communion all disorderly and immoral members, and who hold doctrines contrary to the Scriptures.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. Those delegates who are regularly chosen by the churches in our union, shall compose the Association.

2. The delegates so chosen shall produce letters from their respective churches, certifying their appointments, together with their number in fellowship; those bap-

tized; received by letter; restored; dismissed; excommunicated and dead, since the last Association.

3. The Delegates, thus chosen and convened, shall be denominated *The Union Baptist Association.*

4. The Association shall have a Moderator and Clerk, who shall be annually chosen by a majority of the members present.

5. If new churches desire to be admitted into this union, they shall petition by letter and delegates; and if, on examination, found orthodox and orderly, shall be received by the Association, and manifested by the Moderator's giving their delegates the right hand of fellowship.

6. No church in this union shall have a right to more than two delegates, unless she shall exceed one hundred members; then she shall have a right to an additional delegate for every fifty.

7. Every query sent to the Association, by any church in the union, shall be read, and put to vote by the Moderator whether it shall be debated; and, if there shall be a majority for it, it shall be taken up and investigated: Provided always, that those be first considered which effect the union of the churches.

8. Every motion made and seconded shall be taken up by the Association, except it be withdrawn by the person who made it.

9. Only one person shall speak at once, who shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator.

10. The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted, except he depart from the subject, break the rules of decorum, or cast reflections on a brother; in which case he shall be immediately called to order by the Moderator.

11. No person shall speak more than twice to the same subject, without leave of the Moderator.

12. No brother shall finally depart from the Conference, without leave of the Association.

13. The Moderator shall have the liberty of speaking to any question that may be debated, provided the chair be previously filled; and have the privilege of voting, only when the Association is equally divided.

14. The names of the delegates shall be enrolled by the Clerk, and called over as often as the Association deems expedient.

15. We think it absolutely necessary to have an Association fund for defraying the expenses of the same; for the raising and supporting of which, we think it the duty of each church in the union to contribute such sums as they may deem proper, and send by the hands of their delegates to the Association; and the money thus contributed by the churches shall be deposited in the hands of the Treasurer, by the Association appointed, who shall be accountable to the Association, for all the moneys by him received and paid out, according to the direction of the same.

16. The minutes of the Association shall be read, (and corrected, if necessary,) and signed by the Moderator and Clerk, before the Association rise.

THE POWERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

1. It shall be the business of the Association to provide for the general union of the churches.

2. To keep up a friendly correspondence (when convenient) with those Associations of the same faith and order.

3. This Association shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor infringe upon any of the internal rights of the churches.

4. It shall be the duty of this Association to give the churches the best advice in their power, in difficult matters; to inquire into any difficulties which may exist between sister churches, and remove them, if possible.

5. To admit any of the brethren in the ministry as assistants, but not to give them the privilege of voting.

6. This Association shall have the power to withdraw from any church in the union, which may be unsound in principle or immoral in practice, until reclaimed.

7. To appoint any person or persons, by and with their consent, to transact any business which the association may deem necessary.

8. The Association shall have power to adjourn to any time or place they may think proper.

9. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

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MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

HELD WITH THE

BETHLEHEM CHURCH, FRANKLIN COUNTY, MISS.,

September 25th, 26th, 27th, and 28th, 1852.

NATCHEZ:
Printed at the Natchez Courier Book and Job Office.
1852.